

# WESSEX NEWS

VOL. I No. 1

FEBRUARY 25TH, 1936

PRICE ONE PENNY

## VOX PRINCIPIS

I have very willingly responded to the request of the President of the Students' Union to write a few words for the first number of the "Wessex News," the more so as I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Students' Council, and the whole student body on the courage and enterprise which has induced them to launch this venture. I am quite certain that, if this publication is carried on on the lines which have been outlined to me, it will be of great advantage to the whole College. Very often it has been borne in upon me how difficult it is for various members of the College to know what is going on in departments of activity with which they are not intimately associated, and, indeed, I think very few have any appreciation of the large amount of valuable and interesting work that is done on behalf of the College as a whole, and the student body in particular, and of the extent and range of these activities which have all played their part in building up a sound esprit de corps, and a real basis of university life. I hope very much that from week to week "Wessex News" will be read by all those who are taking part in the activities of the College, and, further, as time goes on, by those who are interested in the College, but not closely associated with its work; it should bring home to them how many and various are the aspects of its life.

From the more practical point of view, I am certain that the publication of facts with regard to what is taking place, and, perhaps more particularly, to what is going to take place, will do much towards easing the organisational work of those who are responsible for various College activities. Very often difficulties have arisen owing to the fact that separate activities have been organised on parallel lines, and have resulted in difficulties because neither side knew what the other was doing. I am sure that the pooling of information will do much to simplify and to improve our corporate life.

I hope very much that all connected with the College, staff and students alike, will make it a point of honour not only to buy, but to read the "Wessex News," because I conceive that in a very short time it will be possible to get a picture of the various activities of the College far more clearly than is possible at the present time. From time to time I have been greatly struck by the fact that projects and developments which have been in the air for some considerable time, and which

have even reached concrete form, are quite unknown to people whom one would expect to be most likely to have been brought into contact with them. How much more is this true of the large majority of the members of the College who are not likely to have been even in distant contact with those who are planning these matters. I feel that, if this publication is a success, it will be a great instrument in welding the ideas, the projects and the ambitions of each individual member of the College into one corporate plan.

I have only written in generalities as this does not seem to be the occasion to talk of any particular interest, but I can assure the Students' Council that I shall be always very ready to help in the provision of material for news, and in any other encouragement that I can give to this venture, and to assure it that, so far as it is possible, all those connected with the College and its administration will do their best to help.

K. H. Vickers, *Principal.*

## Diatribes.

There are four hundred people in this College and two hundred of them don't see anything unless it hits them. We have a great deal being done—by a very few people: the rest if they claim to be alive should show it. People say they object to innumerable things: to the actions of authorities, to the activities of other groups of students; Engineers seem to think that all debaters and the like are Communists, why not try and prove it? Arts men that all Engineers are clods—how do they know? Lectures are listened to in stony silence, why not make approval or disapproval felt; it is possible that the lecturer might appreciate such action.

If we claim to be anything more than half-men we should have the energy to do something besides academic work and talk. No one has the right to object if they merely object in vacuo "and I have waited to see what they will do to-morrow. Let them feed that appetite well for me. I say let them dread of all things stagnation;" will anyone deny the relevance of that quotation?

S. G. B.

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WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, February 25th, 1936.

Office:

STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Editor: Alastair Geddes.

Sports Editor: D. Tyerman, Esq.

Business Manager: N. W. Hodgkinson.

EDITORIAL.

The prospect of publishing a weekly newspaper in this College was mooted last term, partly owing to an article in the "New University" giving an account of the paper published by the Union at Manchester University. By the middle of this term our plans have matured and it now remains to see what success we can make of the "Wessex News."

It is our belief that there is in the College every week sufficient material for a paper twice this size, or why do people sit all day and talk in Refectory and Commons Rooms? The only difficulty is in bringing this talk, or such of it as can justifiably be called news, to print; that can only be done by energetic co-operation between those who know and we who want to know.

The Principal, in his article, has outlined some of the things we have in mind; the co-ordination and distribution of such items as are considered to be relevant to the Union as a whole. But this alone is not enough; if we are merely to act as an information bureau the title, "Wessex News" is a mere presumption. We shall publish articles and letters which, not falling under the title of informational, deal with matters which may be expected to arouse the interest, possibly the loves and hates, of a large part of the Union. There are many opinions in College, and we are not restricting the word opinion simply to views on College politics, which, confined to small groups, are stifled, but which, given air, put down in print, will have the opportunity which is the birthright of opinion; it is an opportunity to stand by themselves and meet and answer opposition.

Let it be thought that we are getting 'high falutin' we draw attention to the Sports Page and would point out that, should a Bateman or Degberry arise in our midst, he will be as free of our columns as any philosopher, or if you would have it so, crank.

IMPORTANT NOTE.

The Editor would draw readers' attention to the following:

1. We hope to publish a weekly leader from distinguished authorities.

2. The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in signed articles.

3. The Editor cannot guarantee to publish 'free advertisement' in the form of advance notices for non-union societies.

4. Would all contributors take especial note of the time for sending in copy, etc. as published on the notice board.

Politics in the University.

SHOULD THE UNION REMAIN INDEPENDENT?

At the Council Meeting of the N.U.S. held in October last, the delegates of Sheffield University proposed that the N.U.S., as representing student opinion in this country, should send a resolution to the Government deploring its attitude of procrastination in applying sanctions against Italy in the present Italo-Abyssinian dispute. The Council were divided upon the advisability of discussing the matter at all, although individually members were possibly in favour of it, since there is a clause in the N.U.S. constitution forbidding any action of a political nature being taken. Eventually the Hon. Legal Adviser gave a ruling that if the matter were taken to law the resolution would be interpreted as political, and as such could not be passed.

It seems relevant however to take over this theory to our own Union and to investigate the possibility of some official action being taken either by the Students' Council or by the Union upon matters which affect us all, but which could be construed in a similar fashion as political.

In the past the Union has carefully held aloof from taking official action of a political nature except upon one or two exceptional occasions, and it may be that the time has come for a change to be made. Politics, nowadays, play a fundamental part in the lives of us all, whether we like it or not, so that it seems justifiable to suggest that our representative body should take its share too.

By the very nature of their occupation, students should have a more keenly tuned mind than others whose education ceased when they left the elementary school at the age of fourteen, and should justify their good fortune by using that advantage for the benefit of the community.

Since politics represents the art or government in action, should not students play their share?

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Wessex News, Dear Sir,

The time has come, I think, for a little mutual congratulation; judging by the rapidity with which events are moving we shall shortly be the very model of a modern university. We have a new library complete with (very) concealed lighting and an admirably complicated system of entry and exit—the only thing lacking perhaps being books, an increasingly large staff of officials, nattily attired to open doors and in general give that very necessary appearance of a modern business institution; further, he it noted a scheme whereby all students enter the College buildings by the one door, thus obviating the necessity of a large number of door-swingers, and a notice board whereon, by superhuman manual dexterity is displayed the time and place of all such meetings as do not directly concern students.

These things we submit are a worthy contribution to "The Idea of a Modern University," but surely further steps are indicated. Before attending to that outward ideal of the university as a home of learning, and another point which some of the more old-fashioned among us urge, to wit the more immediate bodily welfare of students, we should do well to consider the provision of a moving staircase to the library, a system of pedestrian traffic control in the corridors and possibly the erection of zones of silence wherein authority might reflect upon the Brave New World they are creating.

Yours etc.,

Aldous Wells.

To the Editor of the Wessex News.

Dear Sir,

Apathy has had a long reign amongst the Science Students in this College, and I feel that it is time that the matter was examined more closely. I am not pretending that apathy does not exist among students of other Faculties, but merely pointing out that the Scientists are the worst offenders.

At Debates, at meetings of the Political Club, at Play Readings, in fact in any matter that does not directly concern their course of study, they are conspicuous by their absence. There was one

Science student who, in being asked if he would join the Film Society replied that he could not see what relation it bore to his course of study. The Scientists are bottled up in their apparatus.

Some argue that they cannot attend Saturday morning meetings on account of laboratory attendance. This matter of Saturday laboratories is being looked into, but it is not receiving sufficient support from the Scientists themselves.

There never has been made the suggestion that the Scientist's mental equipment is any way inferior, but there must be something fundamentally lacking if he takes little or no interest in affairs outside the Scientific sphere.

The Faculty of Science is as large as the Faculty of Arts, but judging from their quantitative and qualitative appearance in College affairs one might think they were only a tenth of the size. I do appeal to Science students to show that a world does exist for them outside electricity and entomology.

I am, etc.,

Geoffrey Silsby.

The Editor of Wessex News.

Dear Sir,

For several years students have, at this season, been assailed on all sides by the mystic words "Federation Week." Both in College and in Hall the members of the Student Christian Movement have a great deal of energy and time, and use every possible pretext to get the last ounces of blood out of the barren stones which form the bulk of college manhood and womanhood: and why? This is what most of college does not know.

On Friday of last week the Covered Way was adorned with a notice which asked "What is Federation?" and I thought the opportunity had at last arrived to penetrate the mystery. But alas, a meeting of the Union kept me away, as it probably did many others and I am as ignorant as before.

This seems to me to be a matter which affects the whole student body. Almost everyone in College is persuaded at some time to contribute, often quite unwillingly. If the S.C.M. complete their quota of £20, then on an average, every student has contributed about 6d., and scarcely one knows so what purpose it might serve, therefore, appeal through your columns for the Student Christian Movement to publish some account of the meaning of Federation Week, and some statement as to what ultimately happens to the money contributed by students. I am sure that many members of the Union would welcome a solution of this mystery.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Lawrence W. Maidment.

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MAMMOTH COMPTON ORGAN

NEXT WEEK—BORIS KARLOFF IN "THE DARK ROOM"



# Athletic Union.

TRIUMPHANT BOATS AND PLUCKY RUGGER.

NEW TENNIS COURTS.

TIMELY REVIVAL OF SOCCER TEAM.

## ATHLETIC COMMITTEE.

It has been decided to embark upon an extensive programme of ground improvement, the first item of which, the construction of three new hard tennis courts at a cost of some £250 will be begun before the end of this term. The programme will probably be mapped out over a period of years, and will be arranged in order of importance, so far as financial exigencies will allow. The plan will include such items as the levelling of the women's hockey pitch, the provision of new cricket stumps, the renovation of goal posts, and the improvement of athletic equipment.

## SOCCER.

The soccer team followed up its great victory over Southampton A by winning by 5 goals to 1 what was believed to be the deciding match against Bristol University in the Southern Championship on Saturday, February 15th. The College, playing at home, aimed at winning by five goals in order to be champions on goal average.

The game opened at a terrific pace on a heavy ground, Bristol attacking first with great vigour. Undeterred by an early injury to Robson in goal, U.C.S. replied with a series of attacks on the left, and Turnbull scored, rather luckily. The outside left was inspiring his colleagues by his brilliant play, and after continued pressure by the home forwards, scored again. This goal came from a splendid pass by Wallace, who later had a hard shot well saved by Reed, whose excellent play in the Bristol goal alone saved his side from falling further behind.

The home forwards, with Turnbull always prominent, and ably prompted by the brilliant scheming of Blackett, resumed the attack in the second half. Hoyle scored twice, finishing off speedy moves by Turnbull and Wallace. Bristol then scored from a break away, and the chance of the desired five goals lead seemed to be vanishing, when the Bristol forwards tested the home defence strongly. But the defence held out, the forwards came again. Turnbull centred, and Hoyle scored once more. One goal to get! Reed repelled all attempts to score, however, and the game ended in triumph but disappointment. The display given was the

soundest by a College team for many years, and the brilliance of the forwards was no more conspicuous than the sound tactics of the defence, the two backs and Bullock playing very well indeed.

Virtue may have its reward, however, because the U.A.U. has ordered a replay instead of a decision on goal average. MAY THE CHAMPIONSHIP RETURN TO WESSEX! (And we hope this, despite the Plagues and injuries which have smitten Hoyle, Coles, Bullock and Blackett!).

## RUGGER.

A feature of this season's activities has been the steady improvement of the Rugger XV with limited resources but boundless enthusiasm, they have given all their opponents hard and vigorous games, and the talented Bristol University side found themselves no exception. The College lost eventually by sixteen points, the lowest score made by Bristol against us, and before the match ended the visitors to Swaythling had good reason to respect the dash and endurance of their less skilful opponents. At no stage in the game, despite their superior scrummaging and superior combination, were Bristol definitely on top. Again and again brilliant loose forward play by the home pack drove them back, and once or twice forward rushes all but led to a score by the home side. Superior technique told, however, and in each half Bristol scored eight points (a goal and a try). They packed lower, heeled better (but not too well), kicked better and were quicker off the mark. The College forwards excelled in the loose, but packed and heeled badly; the backs tried very hard, showing flashes of skill and speed, but lacked sense of position and their marking left gaps to be penetrated. They were up against a very good side, and they did very well.

Next week's fixtures:—

Wed., Feb. 26th—Home v R.A.F., Old Sarum.  
Sat., Feb. 29th—Away v B.R.A's.

## SWIMMING.

The first match of the season—a practice match—took place on Thursday, February 19th, against Taunton's School, when an exciting polo match was drawn at four goals each and a 4x50 free style relay was won by 4 length.

## HOCKEY.

The weather has washed out hockey during the past week, and the only report comes to us from the Men's Hockey Club, concerning a match against Portsmouth Civil Service on the 15th. Throughout the first half the College faced constant pressure on a heavy pitch and stern defence kept the Portsmouth score down to one. Improved combination in the second half led to an equaliser by Pew, but Portsmouth came again and scored the winning goal close on time.

Saturday next—Women's Hockey against Reading University (at home).

## SPORTS DAY COMMITTEE.

SPORTS DAY will be May 2nd, and entries will be received by C. A. C. Morton or G. A. G. Moir or (in the case of women) Miss G. Luff, not later than March 7th.

## ROWING.

With a new boat house building a membership of fifty, four racing crews, a crowded fixture list and hard training of the most ascetic kind, the Rowing Club is very much alive, from break of day on seven days weekly. On Saturday, February 22nd, two eights were sent to London to meet King's and Queen Mary's. The result was a triumph for our crews, the 1st VIII winning by nine seconds from King's, and the 2nd VIII coming in a good third well ahead of Queen Mary's. A SPLENDID WIN AND A GOOD AUGURY FOR A STRENUOUS MONTH AHEAD!

## MISCELLANEOUS.

A FENCING CLUB has been established under the eager and expert tutelage of Captain Wakeford. The A.U. has blessed the Club, and we wish it luck.

The Soccer A.U.A. replays have been fixed as follows: v Bristol (away), Feb. 29th, and v EXETER (HOME), FEB. 26th. Will all rally round to support them.

Mr. Wreford-Brown, the Old Carthusian and famous Corinthian, is visiting the Warden of New Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 26th, and will give an informed talk on "Soccer" in the Common Room after dinner.

The BOAT CLUB meet BRISTOL on HOME waters on SATURDAY NEXT. Another victory is expected!

The Tennis Club announce a new Handicap Tournament; further particulars may be obtained from the Hall representatives: fuller details later.

RESULTS. (The weather almost washed out the week's sport).

Wednesday, Feb. 19th.

Rugger: v Bristol U. (home): 0—16.

Cross Country (Slow Pack): v Bournemouth Grammar School: 44—57.  
Netball: v Convent (home): 12—6.

Saturday, Feb. 22nd.

Soccer: v King Alfred's (away): 2—3.

Rowing: v King's and Queen Mary's (away): won by 9 secs.  
Netball: v Reading U.: 12—5.

## SPORTS'

### STOP PRESS

We are able to report that Bullock, Blackett and Coles are all progressing favourably. Hoyle's knee remains very doubtful.

## CROSS COUNTRY.

Encouraged by a victory over R.A.F., Calshot on the 15th, by the consistent running of Bagwell, and by the enthusiasm of the new 'slow pack', which won its first match on Wednesday, the Cross Country Club hopes to register a resounding victory in the HANTS INTERCOLLEGIATE which will be run at home on SATURDAY, FEB. 29th.

## PROPAGANDA FILM.

"A country without leadership means ruin," and if that leadership comes from William I of Prussia, hard, immovable, then it is necessary that his son should give up his books and his music, and his friends who speak French, in order that the heir to the throne may learn the noble art of 'Leadership.' Thus William breaks his son's flute, burns his books (but how reminiscent) and executes his son's best friend for the 'honour' of his regiment.

So is Nazi propaganda represented in the film "The Old King and the Young King." The film is a wonderful means of propaganda, but must we suffer such as this—where two money-lenders, Jews of course, completely out-villain any Sweeney Todd. Give us propaganda by all means, but inflict it on us more subtly.

Good photography and first class acting from Emil Jannings and Werner Hinz cannot compensate for such crudities as were given us in the film shown by the Southampton Film Society on Sunday.

G. C. S.

# VISIT THE ICE RINK.

## CONCESSIONS TO STUDENTS.

The manager of the Ice Rink, Banister Road, Southampton, has offered valuable concessions to students: in future there will be a reduction at both afternoon and evening sessions to all members of the Union. Vouchers may be obtained from the Secretary's office entitling the holder to admission to the afternoon sessions at 1/6 instead of 2/-, and to the evening session at 1/- instead of 1/6, the charge for the evening session including the hire of skates.

The Ice Rink is generally recognised as one of the finest in the country and has been used for international matches, so that there is an excellent opportunity either to improve your skating, or if you cannot skate yet, to learn a really exhilarating sport.

This privilege of reduced prices is available only to members of the Union, and vouchers may not be used for the benefit of friends and relations. It is to be hoped that there will be many people availing themselves of this privilege, so that before long the Athletic Union may be considering the recognition of a University College Ice Hockey Club.

# THE SCHOOL LEAVING AGE.

## JOINT MEETING OF EDUCATION SOCIETY AND SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

At a joint meeting held by the above two societies last Thursday, Councillor Matthews, the Southern District Organiser of the Workers' Educational Association gave a talk on the subject of the Education Bill now before Parliament.

The speaker outlined the government's proposals to raise the School leaving age to fifteen as from September, 1939, in accordance with the report of the Hadow Committee, but criticized the bill for the following reasons. In the first place it was stated in the bill that if a child of fourteen could be provided with "beneficial employment" the Local Education Authority should grant exemption from school attendance. The words "beneficial employment" would be open to a great variety of interpretation and the result would be chaotic from the point of view of national organisation. Secondly the government did not propose to give maintenance grants to the parents of children who were spending this extra year at school: from analogy with the present situation, where certain Local Authorities had under bye-law raised the leaving age to fifteen already, it could be shown that unless maintenance grants were given anything between 75% and 95% of the children concerned would leave school at fourteen under the exemption clause. Therefore the only solution was to raise the

leaving age to fifteen without exemptions and to give maintenance grants to those parents who could prove the need of financial assistance.

# MEETING OF THE UNION.

Following upon the meeting addressed by Councillor Matthews a meeting of the Students' Union was held on Friday when a resolution to be sent to the National Union of Students was passed, urging the fuller adoption of the recommendations of the Hadow Committee, in particular, the employment only of Certificated Teachers, the limitations of classes in elementary schools to thirty pupils, and the raising of the school leaving age to fifteen without exemptions and with the payment of maintenance grants where necessary.

Afterwards a further resolution was passed embodying this last point, to be sent to the N.U.S. with a view to its circulation among the other Universities of this country, and to the Board of Education.

# STAGE SOCIETY.

We have vacated the Stage—the stage of the Assembly Hall that is—but we have not by any means relapsed into inactivity.

This year, for the first time, the Society is entering a team for the British Drama League Community Theatre Festival. The Festival is confined to amateur societies and to one-act plays, and is divided for purposes of elimination into divisional and regional areas, the National Final being at the Old Vic.

While we have some slight doubts as to whether we shall be seen at the Old Vic, we hope to gain considerable pleasure and valuable experience out of the venture and also useful criticism from the adjudication of our effort. The play chosen is Sidney Box's "Fantastic Flight," a play of considerable interest, especially technically. The first round is being held somewhere in the town on March 13th or 14th. Fuller details will be published later.

We have held one play-reading this term: James Bridie's "A Sleeping Clergyman." The fact that it was not altogether a success was due to no fault of the play, but to the inadequacy of the interpretation. On Friday, February 28th we are reading Galsworthy's "Justice."

We have a feeling that there is room for much more activity on the part of the Stage Society, but there are a number of difficulties. To give a few, we are faced with the small number of students, the limited amount of time which people interested in many different societies have to spare, and the great difficulty, often felt in a Union Society of which all members of the Union are ipso

facto members, to find those who wish to take an active part in the Society: there is therefore a tendency, of which we ourselves are fully conscious, to fall back on a very limited group of people.

Bearing this in mind we should like to give opportunities for activity outside the production in the Christmas term. For example we should like to have talks and discussions on the Theatre—our chief difficulty here being to find speakers—and to produce plays written in the College.

Finally we should welcome any criticism or suggestions and be particularly glad to see more people contribute to the success of play-readings, which can be, have been, and are stimulating and enjoyable functions.

# REPORT ON FACULTY OF ARTS DANCE.

Then our turn! Science and Engineers having used every conceivable idea, so they said, things seemed difficult. "Brian Gormall's Band" folks whispered, "It'll be a dead loss!" Firmly we ignored them and continued our plans.

We had a pretty good crowd on the night and so hope to prove the Jonahs wrong. Unfortunately the Boat Club and the Netball had away fixtures, but the Hall was well filled as there were many Old Hartleyns and visitors who always support College dances.

Refec. supper was much appreciated by everybody and we followed the lead of another Faculty by having a refreshment bar for soft drinks and ices. It again proved popular, though at times we had to send urgent messages to the M.C. to interpolate more quicksteps as ices weren't selling too rapidly: quicksteps and a hilarious old-fashioned medley did the trick and we sold out.

There were two Elimination Dances, one of which revealed that few men had not taken a woman to the 'flicks' in the past week, and the other discovered the most serious couple in the room.

M. E. Clare, Secretary.  
FROM A REPORTER.

One noteworthy feature seems to be omitted from the official report. Ted Bullock, suffering somewhat from injuries received in the Soccer match at Winchester, was conveyed up, or was it down, the Covered Way in a four-seater car—and it was a woman driver!

# LEARN TO WASTE TIME!

The one real complaint I have to make of the present generation of students is its apparent fear of over-investment of time in mere sitting about and "chewing the rag."

There does not seem to be enough willingness to take advantage of the opportunity to tire the sun with talking and send him down the sky, that is really the most glorious thing about one's days as a student. I should like to see more people doing nothing, drinking coffee and discussing things in general in the refectory.—Lionel Robbins, Prof. of Econ., University of London.

# OTHER SOCIETIES NOTES.

## BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Professor Ramsbottom, O.B.E., of the British Museum is to lecture to the Society on Friday February 28th. His subject will be "Fungi and Human Affairs." The lecture should be of general interest and all students are invited.

## GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The long-awaited programme of films will be shown to-morrow, Wednesday, at 2.30 and 5.30. This should be a big attraction: the Hall is almost booked up for the afternoon, so members of the Geographical and Education Societies who may be attending will be well advised to wait until 5.30. The stewards will know what to do if they try to get in in the afternoon.

## MEMBERS' NIGHT AT THE RHYTHM CLUB.

Having been blessed with a band attraction at each of our meetings since the Club was formed, it was hardly surprising that we were not able to invite a band to our last meeting.

After many requests for particular records we decided to hold a members' night. Many members obliged with records and we were treated to a very interesting record which included records by Borah Minevitch, Valaida, Mills Bros, Hawkins, Boswell Sisters, Venti and Long, and Six Biederbecke.

Next Sunday's programme is referred to in our advert: we hope that everyone will do their best to turn up.

## Personal Column.

Advertisements in this column are charged a minimum rate of 3d. for three lines and 1d. for each additional line.

FOR SALE. Any offers for "Plays of a Half-decade." Eleven, including "Lady with a Lamp," "Journey's End," "Young Woodley." New. Cost 8/6. Fleming, W. C. R.

TO ALL students in Highfield and Connaught Halls. Knowing you to be half-starved, Stoneham students offer assorted crusts, all ages, 6d. per 50. Buy now! Real Value! Apply: Cutmore Crust Company, Ltd.

WANTED. Wrist Strap. Geddes, M. C. R.

WANTED. Old white sweater. Cheapness essential. Hodgy, M. C. R.

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